

# New Ground



Spring/Summer 2003

## JULIE Holds Annual Meeting

*Board Approves Policies Relating to Insufficient Notices and Ticket Life*

The Illinois One-Call System held its annual meeting this spring in Rockford, Illinois.

Over 100 people attended the meeting where JULIE's Board of Directors and Executive Director **Mark Frost** presented a



*Mark Frost highlights JULIE's accomplishments.*

year-in-review and formal update on damage prevention initiatives.

Board President **Gene Barney**, Leaf River Telephone Company, kicked off the meeting by introducing each of the Board members, including the stakeholder group that they represented, and highlighting several achievements. Executive Director Frost provided an overview of the 2003 business plan and on-going initiatives. A Board member, who acts as a liaison to the Board, then provided each

committee report. The minutes were sent to all JULIE Coordinators in May.

In addition, earlier this year, the JULIE Board of Directors approved two important policies.

### INSUFFICIENT NOTICES

First, effective June 1, 2003, non-emergency, routine utility locate requests, including those from homeowners, will only be accepted through JULIE with a legal start date and time, as defined in the Illinois Underground Utility Facilities Damage Prevention Act. Further, excavators who insist that they will be digging prior to the two working day notice will be encouraged to follow the state law and reminded of the potential dangers to life, personal property and the environment if they dig without utility notification.

"Despite the state law's requirements for a two working day advance notice, JULIE has accepted locate requests from excavators who plan to start their routine excavation projects prior to the two working day advance

## MEMBERS APPROVE BOARD NOMINATIONS

Congratulations to the following Board of Directors approved by membership at the annual meeting:

### President:

**Eugene Barney**,  
Leaf River Telephone 2003-04

### Board of Directors:

**Gary Klein**, Laser Construction,  
Nonmember Excavator 2003-04

**Kent Kowalske**, Ameren CILCO, Gas  
2001-04

**Fred Kreinbrink**, City of Naperville,  
Municipal 2001-04

**John Pruden**, City of Salem,  
Municipal Gas 2003-04

**Tom Stutzman**, ComEd, Electric  
2001-04

**Art Kraus**, Kraus Cable TV, CATV  
2002-05

**Tom Meyer**, Greater Peoria Sanitary  
District, Water/Sewer 2002-05

**Al Toliver**, Verizon, Communications  
2002-05

**Steve Fletcher\***, Washington County  
Water, Small Utility 2003-06

**Gary Stewart**, Trunkline Gas,  
Pipeline 2003-06

\*Fletcher will serve one year of term.

A complete list of officers is posted at [www.julie1call.com](http://www.julie1call.com).

*Silver Trumpet award presented to JULIE, Inc.*

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*Important*  
NEW POLICIES  
APPROVED  
BY BOARD

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# Annual Meeting

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requirement,” Frost said. “This practice was deemed appropriate when JULIE was first created, before public awareness of the Illinois One-Call System was as strong as it is now, and before the state law was approved and more recently amended.”

Members of the Operations and Governmental Affairs Committees reviewed this issue.

## 28-DAY TICKET LIFE

In addition, several member constituencies raised concerns over JULIE locate requests having no definite expiration dates. JULIE has been working with members, excavators and other groups and organizations to address this issue. Executive Director Frost stated that a current Illinois House Bill (HB2839), authored by the Illinois Municipal League (IML) to address municipal sewer membership issues and being amended by a joint effort of the IML and JULIE, would serve as a vehicle to include ticket life language and other changes.

At press time, the Board of Directors supported the concept of a 28-day ticket life for utility locate requests processed through JULIE and directed staff to work with the authors of

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# Updated Info Reduces Non-conflict Notifications

Maintaining a database with the names of every street in the state of Illinois continues to be a never-ending challenge for the JULIE Data Department.

“*We need our members’ assistance with this on-going issue.*”

**Greg Fisch**

Data Operations Manager

One of the best ways to reduce unnecessary, non-conflict notifications to members is to obtain information about new

streets as they are platted and approved by municipal and county governments and then having JULIE staff enter the information into our street database prior to any excavation activity.

Members are encouraged to send information to JULIE anytime facilities expand into a new quarter section, or in the case of our municipal members, the city expands its borders into a new quarter section. Maps should be directed to Greg’s attention at 3275 Executive Drive, Joliet, Illinois 60431. If you have questions, he can also be reached at 815-741-5003.

# Gemini System Is Ready To Go



Final preparations are being made by member companies in anticipation of the new Gemini computer going online at JULIE. OCARS Gemini will provide uninterrupted JULIE service in the event of a system outage or facility damage and is a key component of JULIE’s disaster recovery plan, as outlined at strategic planning sessions with the

Board of Directors. The Gemini system is based on the concept of two online computers, both of them processing locate requests and delivering messages. With the exception of some minor ticket format changes needed to identify which system each locate request is processed on, JULIE members will notice only minimal changes once Gemini is cut-over.

**THE OCARS GEMINI SYSTEM IS SCHEDULED FOR IMPLEMENTATION AT MIDNIGHT ON JUNE 1, 2003.**

# Let's SPREAD The Word



**J**ULIE relies on our Member Coordinators to spread the word about new law changes, policies and other proactive outreach efforts. Please make sure that your coworkers and subcontractors are aware of the following issues:

- JULIE operators are available 24 hours, 7 days per week and 365 days per year to receive and process locate requests. Excavators may also use other methods to submit locate requests, especially during busy periods. *Web Remote Ticket Entry* is the fastest growing segment of total locates. Call the Data Department at 815-741-5011 for more information.
- Utility locate requests are only accepted from the excavator or a personal representative/ employee of the company engaging in the excavation activity.
- *For our frequent callers . . .* With JULIE's new phone system, if an excavator wishes to by-pass the legal statements, they have to Press 1, then wait to hear the voice, *then* press the 3-digit by-pass code that they previously received.

"When calling in a locate request, excavators are encouraged to have the necessary required information readily available so that the operators can process the tickets quickly and efficiently," said **Okie**

**Picco**, call center manager. "The specific information requested by the JULIE operator can be found on our helpful locate request form and in the excavator handbook." Free materials, including documents that can be easily downloaded, are available at [www.julie1call.com](http://www.julie1call.com).

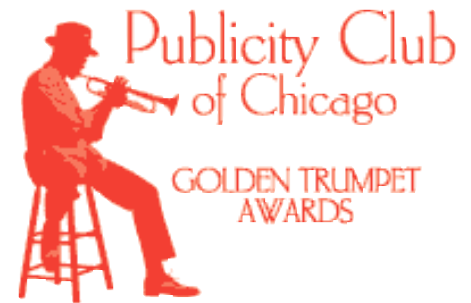
Several members have requested information about the first line of the locate request ticket, known as the "banner line." In addition to providing the member code receiving the ticket, the banner line includes the sequence number for

that member for the day, the one-call center's name, date the ticket was transmitted and time the ticket was sent. It is important to monitor these sequence numbers throughout the day to ensure complete reception of all tickets. A new member handbook outlining this format in detail, along with the primary role of the JULIE coordinator and member responsibilities, is available at 815-741-5000. Specific ticket format questions or database changes can be directed to the Data Department at 815-741-5011.

## JULIE Receives Silver Trumpet Award

**R**epresentatives of JULIE, Inc. recently announced that the not-for-profit corporation was the recipient of the *Silver Trumpet award for distinguished achievement in public relations* from the Publicity Club of Chicago (PCC). This prestigious award, presented for excellence in planning, creativity and execution, was awarded to JULIE, Inc. during the PCC Golden Trumpet Awards luncheon at the Chicago Hilton.

In 2002, JULIE, Inc. created and implemented a comprehensive, multi-dimensional statewide public safety and education campaign, entitled "Dig Safely Illinois." The program stressed the importance of safe-digging practices and calling the Illinois One-Call System before any digging projects.



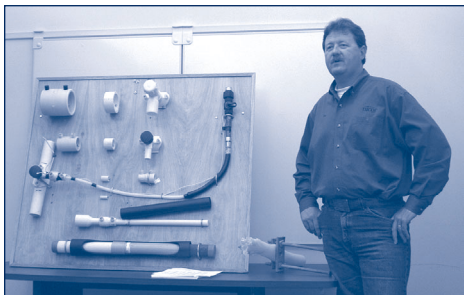
"We are honored to receive this paramount award," said **Kevin Chmura**, public relations manager. "As we move forward, we will continue to focus on safety-related issues and expand outreach of our education campaign through a variety of proactive methods."

JULIE, Inc. was the award recipient in the Public Service and Issues category, honoring programs that educate and inform about issues such as public safety, the environment, etc.

# Members Stress Safety Message

As part of an on-going public safety campaign, JULIE encouraged our members this spring to stress the importance of calling the Illinois One-Call System and safe-digging practices to professional and non-professional excavators (i.e. homeowners, etc.) in their communities. The response has been excellent.

We received several safety articles and reminders to “Call JULIE Before You Dig” that our members submitted to the editors of their community newsletters and local newspapers. For example, this important message was included in the **Village of Morton’s** Customer Information Newsletter, the *Free Press-Progress* (**Village of Witt**), the **Forest Park** Village Register and on a safety poster (**City of Rockford**). Recently, a front-page article appeared in the *Salem Times-Commoner* (**City of Salem**). Several members included information about JULIE along with their customer billing statements.



▲ Tim Beshoar of Nicor Gas talks to excavators about safety issues at a Damage Prevention Council meeting in Joliet.

*Please continue to submit photos and articles to JULIE’s Public Relations Department. Thanks for your help!*



## quick digs



### Task Force Reviews Joint Meet Process

The JULIE Board recommended that a task force be created and comprised of JULIE, DIGGER, excavator and member representatives to review the joint meet process and submit recommendations for changes and/or additions to the Operations Committee later this year.

The decision to form the task force came after the JULIE Board realized that there have been no changes or modifications to the joint meet request process since it was first implemented several years ago. As you know, a joint meet is scheduled when the extent of the work may be confusing or extends over a large geographic area and it may be helpful to distribute maps, plans, and schedules or openly discuss the project. The implementation of any changes to this process would not take place until spring 2004.

### ICC Reports Enforcement Statistics

According to the Illinois Commerce Commission, from July 2002 through April 2003, there were 237 incident reports submitted to the JULIE Enforcement Program staff. Of these incidents, a majority was reported by utilities. During this period, 21 notices of violation were sent by the ICC—total penalties assessed were over \$30,000.

**Questions about the enforcement process can be directed to the ICC at 217-558-4010.**

### Upcoming Events 2003

#### JULIE GOLF OUTING AND BOARD MEETING

Are you ready for some . . . golf? The 2003 Annual Golf Outing and Board Meeting are scheduled for **July 16**. The event and meeting will be held at the The Links at Carillon Golf Course in Plainfield, Illinois. *If you are interested in donating golf items (i.e. tees, towels, golf balls, etc.) or door prizes for this fun event, please contact Barb Huff, assistant public relations manager, at 815-741-5936.*

#### UNDERGROUND FOCUS LIVE!

Experience first hand the most advanced products and techniques in the underground construction industry at *Underground Focus Live!* on **July 23 and 24** in Manteno, Illinois (south of Chicago). It is an excellent opportunity to see equipment demonstrations that are exactly like the conditions excavators face on a daily basis.

For additional information and to pre-register for your **FREE** admission pass prior to July 11, visit [www.undergroundfocuslive.com](http://www.undergroundfocuslive.com) or call 866-279-7755.

#### DAMAGE PREVENTION CONFERENCE AND EXPO.

The Sixth Annual Damage Prevention Conference and Exposition will be held in two locations this year. The first will be held on **Oct. 8-10** at the Minneapolis Convention Center in Minnesota and the second on **Dec. 3-5** at the Tampa Convention Center in Florida. More information is available at [www.damagepreventionconvention.com](http://www.damagepreventionconvention.com).

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## **CGA Promotes Best Practices**

Ensuring the safety of those who work or live in the vicinity of underground facilities and protecting vital services is everyone's responsibility.

The Common Ground Alliance (CGA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to shared responsibility in damage prevention. The purpose of the CGA is to ensure public safety, environmental protection and integrity of services by promoting effective damage prevention best practices.

A JULIE representative is now a member of the CGA's Educational Programs Committee. For more information on damage prevention best practices, visit [www.commongroundalliance.com](http://www.commongroundalliance.com). A new Dig Safely Web site also has helpful information at [www.digsafely.com](http://www.digsafely.com).

## **Call JULIE Before You Plow (or Dig)!**

Down on the farm, excavation can become a routine occurrence.

Tile plowing, building waterways and setting posts are examples of farm-related projects requiring a call to JULIE. While state law does not require a call for routine farm tillage operations, deeper excavation projects such as deep-ripping and sub-soiling can create safety hazards and members recommend a call to JULIE first.

Mark your calendar for **September 23-25** and visit JULIE, our members and several organizations promoting safety at the 50th Farm Progress Show. The site is near Danville, Illinois. For maps and other information about the show, visit [www.farmprogressshow.com](http://www.farmprogressshow.com).

# Spring Brings Rate Adjustment

**S**pring brings rain, flowers, an increase in excavator activity and call volume and (this year) a rate adjustment.

As you know, message rates for all categories were increased by \$0.10 (ten cents) on April 1, 2003. Further, FY 2004 message rates, for all categories, will be increased by an additional \$0.05 (five cents) on January 1, 2004.

In November 2002, a letter from Executive Director Mark Frost was sent to all JULIE members announcing that, for the first time in nearly

two decades, the JULIE Board of Directors approved a policy resolution relating

to increases in the JULIE message rate for Fiscal Years 2003 and 2004.

Copies of the letter also accompanied all new member packets after the initial announcement.

Accounting questions and related issues can be directed to **Karen Tunney** at 815-741-5684.



## **Annual Meeting**

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HB2839 and other appropriate officials to create language to amend the Act to achieve this goal. The targeted effective date is March 2004.

“Our committees have considered the issue and have determined that it would be in the best interest of Illinois utility owners/operators and excavators to support a ticket life for JULIE locate requests,” Frost continued. “The Illinois Commerce Commission staff

concluded with the committees’ position on this issue and requested that ticket life be included in legislative language for the purpose of easier enforcement.”

**For the full text of the amendatory language and a status of this bill, please visit the Illinois General Assembly Web site at [www.legis.state.il.us](http://www.legis.state.il.us) and enter HB2839 (Legislation and Laws).**

# We're Here To Help

With more than 1,670 members, JULIE is one of the largest not-for-profit organizations in the state. Members with questions about the JULIE system, new policies and the state law are encouraged to contact one of JULIE's Field Liaisons.

*Northern Illinois Liaison*

**David Van Wy**

847-635-7992 (office),

815-351-5002 (cell)



*Central/Southern Illinois Liaison*

**Raymond Muhs**

618-662-2118 (office),

618-843-2513 (cell)

Requests for education and safety materials can be submitted via our

Web site (Free Materials) or by calling 815-741-5000. A complete list of available items is available on the site too.

## **MEMBER DAMAGE PREVENTION CONTACTS**

In addition, several member companies, including ComEd, Nicor Gas and SBC, have damage prevention and quality assurance contacts available to assist with questions about their specific locating procedures. Contact information for these companies and more information are available at [www.julie1call.com](http://www.julie1call.com).



# ON-LINE WITH JULIE

You have heard a lot about it, but have you visited JULIE's helpful Web site? Answers to many of your questions and the latest news are available at either [www.julie1call.com](http://www.julie1call.com) or [www.julieonecall.com](http://www.julieonecall.com).

Benefits include:

- JULIE policies
- ICC enforcement process link
- Full text of Act
- Utility damage prevention contacts
- Member service vendors
- Safety presentation requests
- Frequently asked questions
- Free safety materials
- Upcoming events
- JULIE staff directory

[www.julie1call.com](http://www.julie1call.com)

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*The Inside Scoop...*



**JULIE, Inc.**  
3275 Executive Dr.  
Joliet, IL 60431

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